

# Human Reliability Analysis in Support of ASCAP Model of CBTM



Presentation to PTC RSAC  
December 5, 2001, San Antonio, TX

John Wreathall & Dennis Bley, TWWG  
Emilie Roth, Roth Cognitive Engineering  
Jordan Multer, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center  
Tom Raslear, FRA

# Major Goals of HRA Study

- Develop and document HRA tools for use in railroad risk assessment applications
- Demonstrate the HRA tools using ASCAP analysis of CBTM in dark territory as a case study
- Iterate with RSAC & ASCAP on refining the process and methods, to ensure consistency of analysis

# HRA Approach

- Qualitative Evaluation of Human Factors Issues
- Survey of databases for HRA sources
- Trial Quantification Workshop
- **Second Quantification Workshop**
- Document process & issues in application

# Workshop

- 2 days in Greenville S.C.
  - October 29 & 30, 2001
- 30 attendees
  - 4 railroad & associated consultants
  - 13 labor & associated consultants
  - 6 FRA & associated consultants
  - 1 UVA
  - 6 Volpe & associated consultants
- Performed training, analyses of crew exceedances & CBTM as single group
- Split into 2 groups for other analyses

# Analytical Process

- Identify major classes of failure
  - E.g. train passes limit of authority
    - Crew error
    - Dispatcher error
- What is scope?
- What kinds of things could cause this?
- What data exist?
- What judgments are needed?
- Synthesize analysis

# Example: Crew-caused Exceedance of Authority

## ● Scope

- Crew fails to stop at end of current authority
- Possible reasons:
  - Inattention or fail to recognize location
  - Erroneous recall of authority
  - Distraction (within cab/out of cab)
  - Over-reliance on another crew member
  - Misjudged braking performance
  - “Unconscious”

# Data & Basis for Analysis

- Data sources
  - Train crew disciplinary actions
  - CSX operating experience
  - Incidents in CBTM test territory
- Judgments required
  - Degrees of under-reporting
- Interpretation of results
  - Relationship to ASCAP CBTM Model

# Overall Process

- Evaluate separate sources
  - CSX-wide experience
    - Larger volume of data
    - Less directly associated with test territory
  - CBTM territory experience
    - Much less data
    - Directly related to territory
- Integrate results
- [Click here](#) for flow diagram



# CSX Crew Disciplinary Data

- 91 track segment (TS) violations in last 4 years
- Fraction in DTC territory
  - Pro-rated by track miles
    - About 37% of CSX is DTC
- Degree of under-reporting
  - Estimated 5-20% by participants
    - Assumed equally likely in this range
    - Mean is 12.5%
- Estimated TS violation in DTC per year = 9.5/year

# CSX Experience

- Total main line train miles =  $81.5\text{E}+6/\text{year}$ 
  - Average over 4 years (1997 – 2000)
- Average DTC Train miles =  $30.4\text{ E}+6$  (~37%)
- Therefore *average* rate of exceedance =  $9.5/30.4\text{ E}+6, = \underline{3.1\text{ E}-7/\text{train-mile}}$
- *(Will be adjusted to per block boundary soon)*

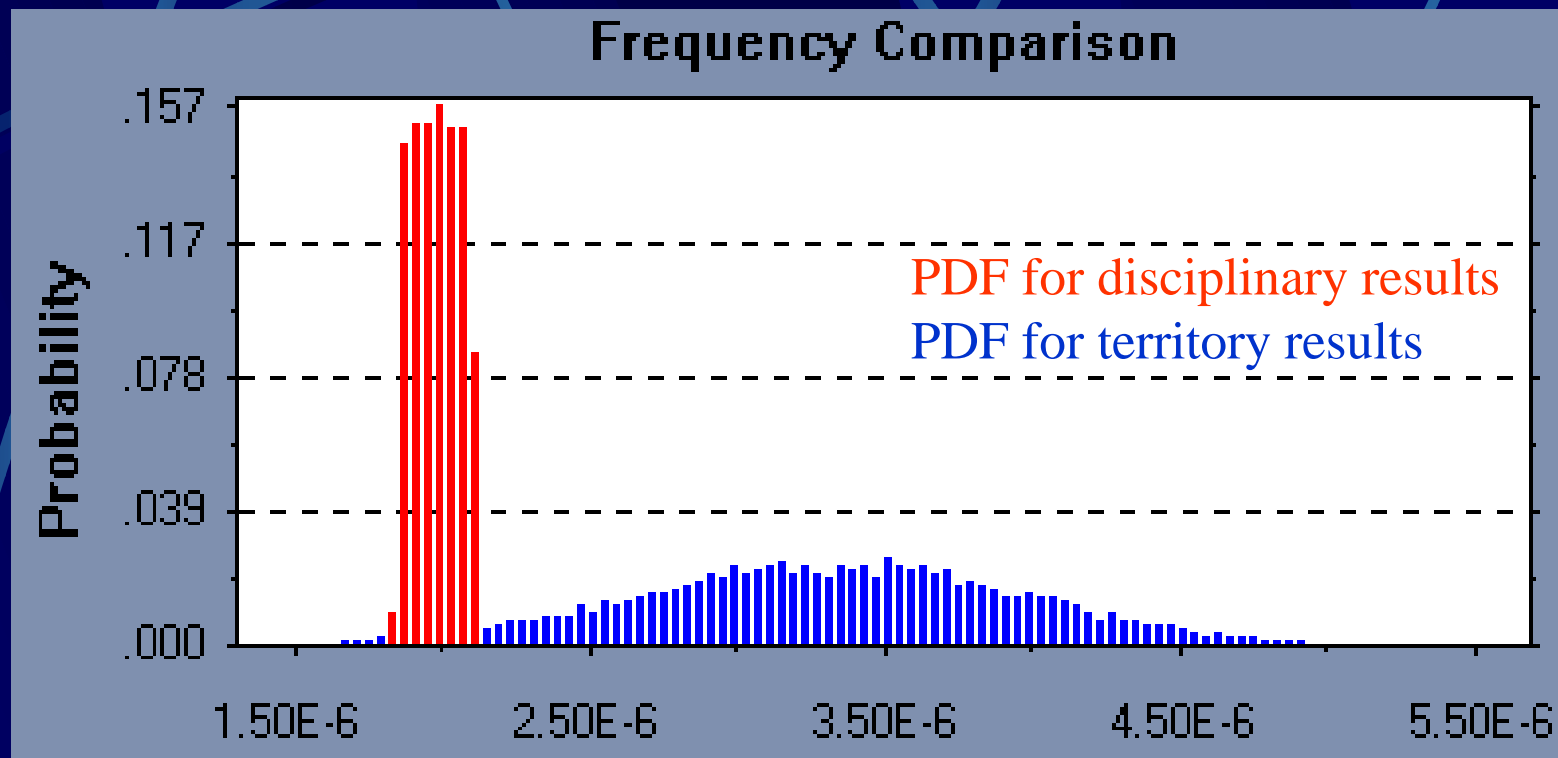
# Territory-Specific Analysis

- No. of events within territory in database = 0
- Estimated occurrence rate = 3 to 6 in 10 years
  - Mean rate = 0.45 / year
- Sample operating experience showed 273 trains in 2 week period in territory
  - 855,000 train-miles/year (120 miles, 52 weeks/year)
- Average authority = ~2 blocks (or ~13 miles)
- Mean rate / authority =  $6.7 \text{ E-6/authority}$  issued
- Mean rate / train mile =  $5.3 \text{ E-7/train-mile}$

# Final Analysis

- Average block length = 6.3 miles
- Mean rate per block boundary
  - Disciplinary-data based =  $2.0 \text{ E-6/block boundary}$
  - Territory-data based =  $3.3 \text{ E-6/block boundary}$
- Which to use?

# Comparison between Estimates



Distribution ranges overlap, with territory-specific encompassing disciplinary data. Use territory result.

# Performance Shaping Factors (PSF)

- Workshop participants identified the most important PSF:
  - Experience Level
  - Weather
  - Quality of radio reception
  - Workload
  - Fatigue

# Summary of Mean Results

- Crew-caused exceedances =  $3.3 \text{ E-6} / \text{block}$
- Dispatcher-caused exceedances =  $1.7 \text{ E-6} / \text{block}$
- Overspeeding =  $4.0 \text{ E-6} / \text{speed-zone}$
- Unauthorized workzone entry =  $3.3 \text{ E-6} / \text{zone}$
- Switches:
  - Switch left in reverse position =  $1.6 \text{ E-4}$
  - Engineer fails to see switch & stop at track speed
    - = 1.0 for 7 southbound & 6 northbound switches (because of location)
    - = 0.2 for 3 southbound & 4 northbound switches
  - Engineer fails to see switch & stop at slow speed
    - =  $1.0 \text{ E-4}$

# CBTM Results

- Likelihood of crew not responding before penalty brake, mean = 0.04/warning
  - Assuming warning/braking time, audibility issues, etc., resolved in production system
- Likelihood of crew not responding to events previously modeled (exceedances, overspeeding, etc.) is unchanged by addition of CBTM *if CBTM is failed*:
  - *Under operating philosophy that crews will be trained & expected to run as if CBTM does not exist*
    - i.e., No reliance on CBTM
  - *Will require active management involvement to accomplish this*



# Evaluation of Reliance on CBTM

- Evaluate as sensitivity analysis
  - Increase failure probabilities for each 'base case' for events that CBTM provides coverage by factors: 2, 5, 10 ...
  - Identify when reliance effects negate CBTM effectiveness
- Provides a basis to estimate margin before degradation of system occurs

# Integrating PSFs into Human Reliability Quantification

- Workshop participants quantified the actions for the PSFs currently applicable to the CSX Augusta-Spartanburg run.
- The effects of PSF are not always simple multipliers.
- New elicitations are recommended for changed conditions.

# Future Considerations for HRA

- Add new data and update distributions as experience grows
  - Should narrow distributions
- CBTM estimates have limited experience
  - More test experience should improve analysis
  - Values based on current expectations as to how system will be used

# Workshop Comments

- The process was a useful and practical way to get local knowledge and expertise into the modeling process
  - Ensure that the inputs are only from the experienced people, not “just everyone”
- While the process was intense (and sometimes frustrating), the products reflect the effort
- Much qualitative discussion was needed to get to the quantitative results
  - ensures a common viewpoint between parties who normally see just one perspective
    - e.g., the details of switching operations, dispatching

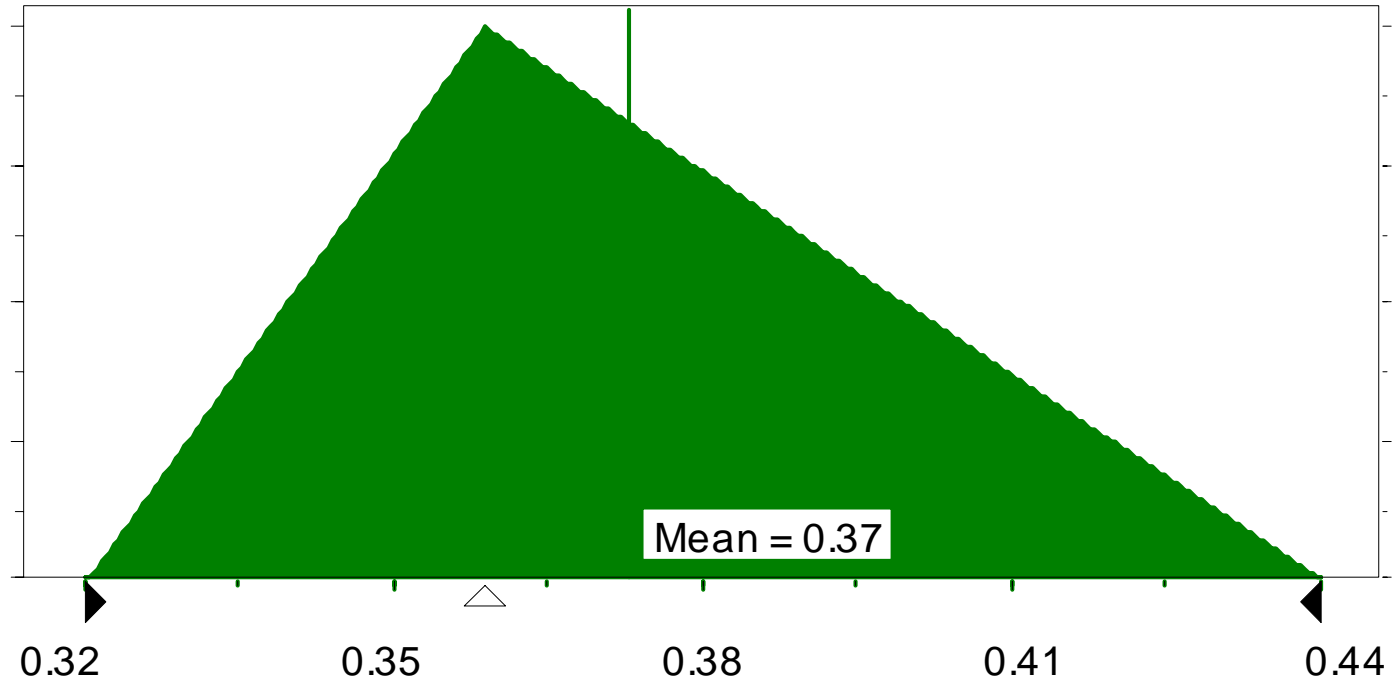
# Thanks

- To all attendees for their willingness to tolerate being pushed to where they might not realize they had knowledge and relevant experience
- To the labor representatives for their encouragement of active participation by members
- To the railroads for providing data and helping understand the operating issues and history
- To the FRA for supporting the workshop and encouraging the free flow of information in the potentially controversial area of human errors and railroad safety

The background is a solid dark blue. It is decorated with several large, overlapping triangles in a slightly lighter shade of blue. A network of thin, light blue lines crisscrosses the entire frame, creating a geometric pattern.

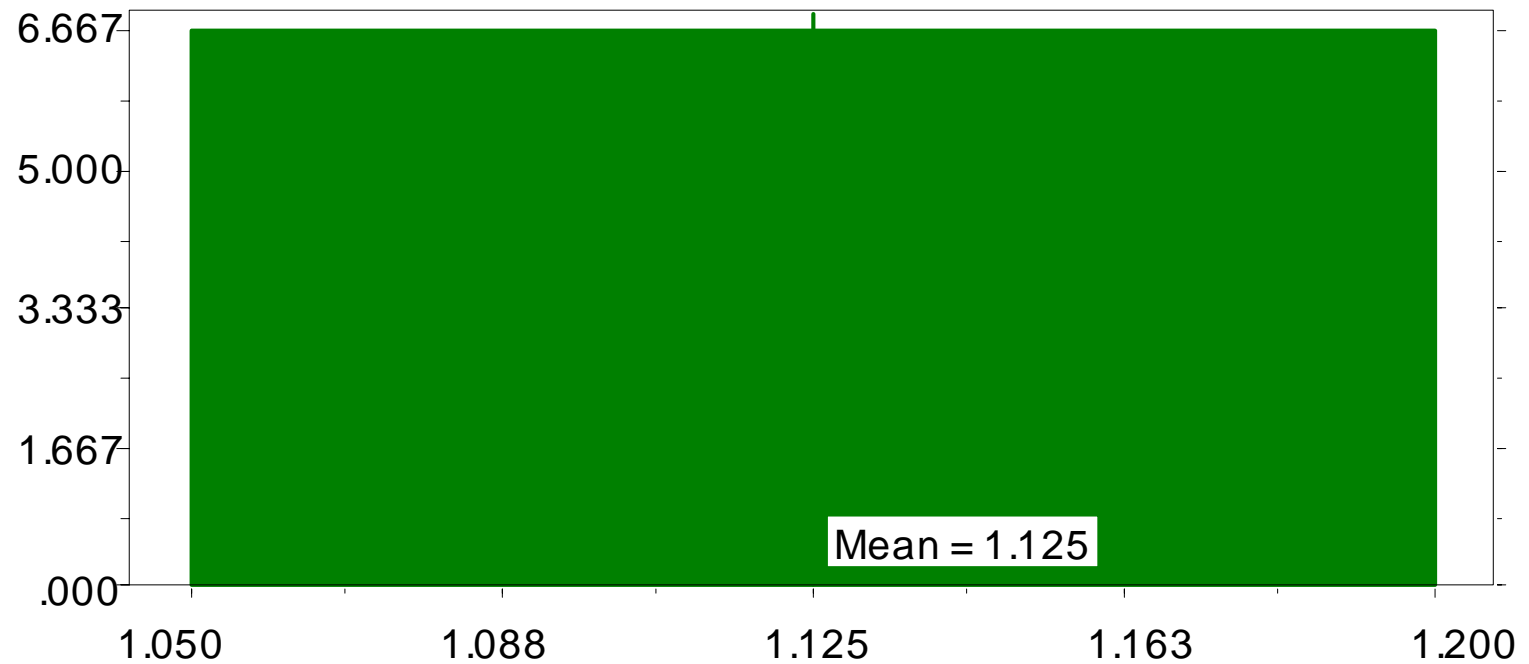
The End

# Fraction of CSX track that is DTC



[Back](#)

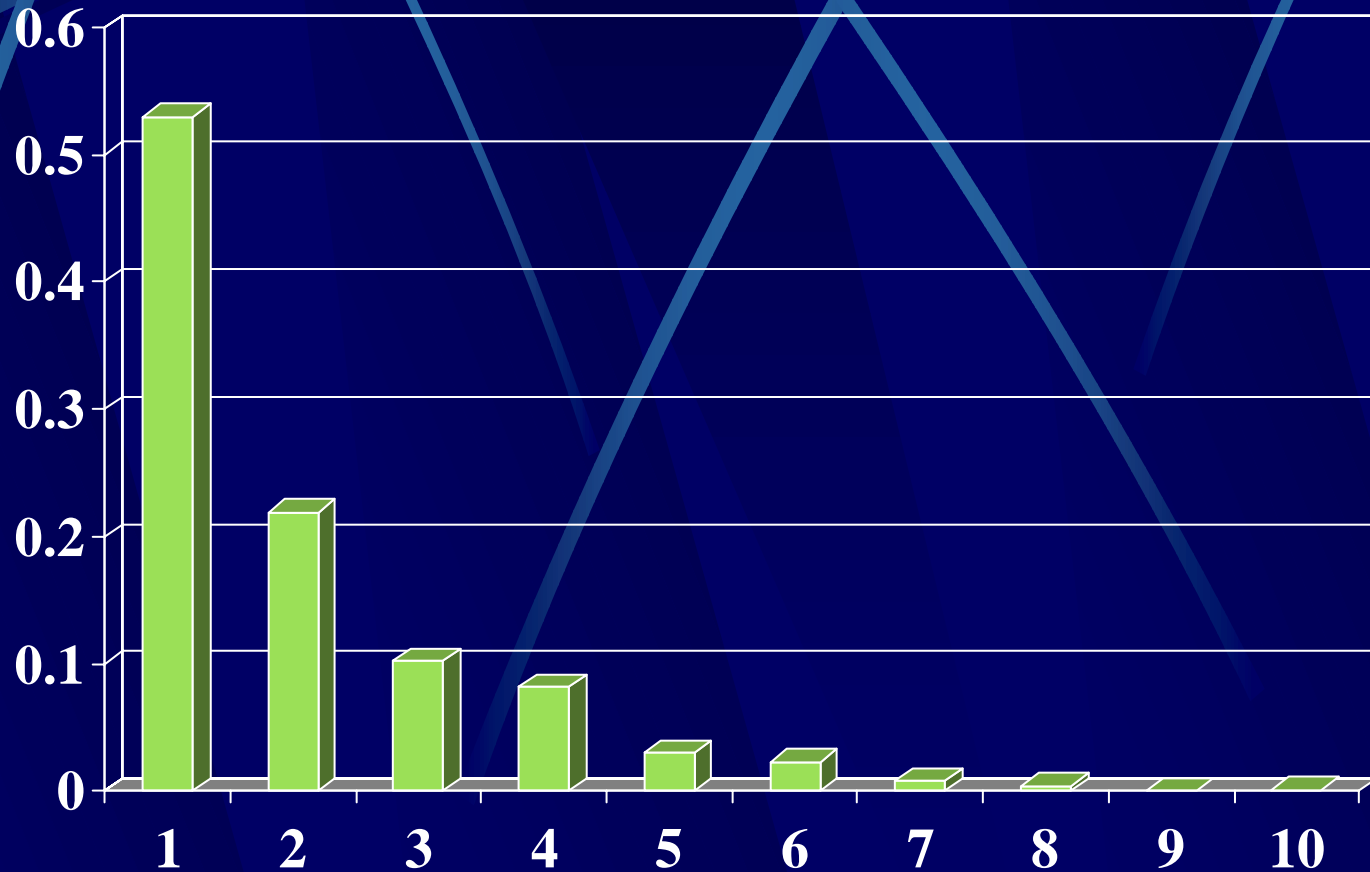
# Extent of Under-reporting



[Back](#)

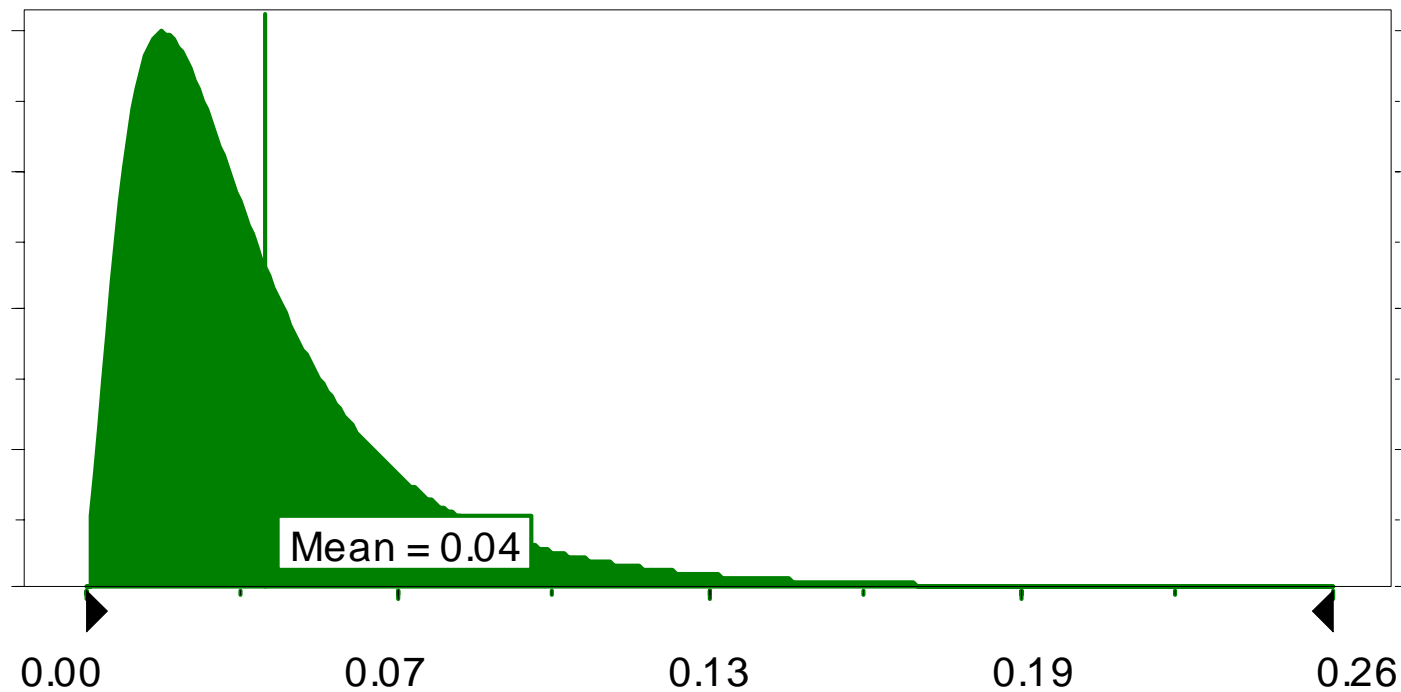


# Distribution of No. of Blocks/Authority



[Back](#)

# CBTM Response Model



[Back](#)